

### JOHN CROOK

In July of 1858 a plot of land  $1\frac{1}{2}$  miles square was surveyed in Provo Valley by J. C. Snow. This plot was called City Plot. Before September 1858 additional acreage in the North Field had been surveyed and allotted. Most families received 25 acres of land, five of which was meadow land for pasturage. In October 1859 yet another survey was conducted South and West of City Plot by Mr. Snow and John Crook. For his work Mr. Crook received 25 acres of land and \$10.00 cash.

Mr. Crook tells us that during the July 1858 survey the men were camped near a stream in City Plot. A pint cup was left overnight nearly full of water. When morning came the water was frozen solid. The first pioneers felt sure this confirmed their belief that agriculture could never be successful in Heber.

To Mr. Crook we are indebted for the information concerning the intentions of the leaders regarding the use they meant to make of Wasatch County. All through the winter of 1858-59 meetings were held to determine the advisability of settling this valley the following summer. It was generally considered too cold for anything but cattle ranches. Some wanted to convert the entire valley into a huge cattle kingdom. Mr. Crook stoutly maintained that if they planted their seed and exercised their faith, God would grant an increase.

Perhaps one of the greatest services to the community performed by Mr. Crook was the keeping of a daily diary that can be relied upon to be honest and straightforward.

—3— <sup>Scrk</sup> Turner Red Book